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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

January 24, 2000

Applicants : Toru AIDA et al  
For : CONTOUR EMPHASIZING CIRCUIT  
PCT International Application No.: PCT/JP98/03317  
PCT International Filing Date: July 24, 1998  
U.S. Application No.  
(if known, see 37 CFR 1.5): Unknown  
Atty. Docket No.: Furusawa Case 49  
Box PCT  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

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**AMENDMENT BEFORE FIRST OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

Prior to issuance of the first Office Action in the above-identified application, kindly enter the following:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-4 and replace them with newly presented Claims 5-9 as follows.

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5. A contour emphasizing circuit comprising a contour pick-up unit for sampling contour component from input video signal, a level judging unit comprising a decoder for dividing the luminance level into n number (n = integers between  $2^{m-1}$  and  $2^m$ ) of levels by discriminating the luminance level of the input video signal on the basis of m-bit data of upper luminance levels, a coefficient control unit for selectively changing coefficient among n number of coefficients, that is, selecting a high-value coefficient for a high luminance level and a low-value coefficient for a low luminance level, according to judging signal from the level judging unit to